

*Delivered at memorial service, Nov. 28, 1978  
at Elsmere Presbyterian Church, by the  
Rev. Neene Wille,  
Pastor*

MR. HOFFMAN:      FIDELITY SERVING OF THE LORD

REV. HOFFMAN SERVED AS      PRESBYTERIAN MINISTER      TO KOREA FROM 1910 TO 1942. DURING HIS LABORS THERE, HE LED HIS FAMILY WHO HAVE EACH BEEN ACTIVE SERVANTS OF THE LORD, SERVING AS MINISTER, DOCTOR, TEACHER, EDITORIAL WRITING, AND HOMEMAKERS.

ALMOST EACH TIME I VISITED WITH MR. HOFFMAN, HE WOULD TELL ME SOMETHING ABOUT HIS FAMILY, SHOW ME THEIR MANY PICTURES, POINT WITH PRIDE TO ALL HIS GRANDCHILDREN AND GREAT GRANDCHILDREN. HE KEPT IN TOUCH WITH THEM, WAS CONCERNED ABOUT THEM, AND LOVED THEM ALL, AS HE KNEW HIS FAMILY LOVED HIM.

BECAUSE OF WORLD WAR II, MR. HOFFMAN HAD TO RETURN HOME. HE SERVED THIS CHURCH AS STATED SUPPLY PASTOR FROM 1942-52, FROM WHICH HE RETIRED. IT WAS DURING HIS PASTORATE THAT THE PRESENT CHURCH BUILDING WAS CONSTRUCTED AND THE CHURCH UNDER HIS ABLE AND FAITHFUL LEADERSHIP BEGAN TO SHOW SIGNS OF RAPID GROWTH, AS ELSMERE BECAME ONE OF WILMINGTON'S FIRST SUBURBS BUILT AFTER WORLD WAR II.

REV. HOFFMAN TOLD ME ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS HOW HE WOULD GO FROM DOOR TO DOOR, TO GET ACQUAINTED WITH THE NEW RESIDENTS AND TO INVITE THEM TO THE CHURCH. OFTEN WHEN I VISITED WITH HIM IN THE LAST SEVEN YEARS HE WOULD INQUIRE ABOUT THE CHURCH, ITS MEMBERS, AND AT TIMES MAKE SUGGESTIONS TO HELP ME CARRY OUT MY RESPONSIBILITIES. HE MAINTAINED HIS KEEN CONCERN FOR THIS CHURCH RIGHT UP TO HIS DEATH. LAST TUESDAY WHEN I WENT TO VISIT WITH HIM, ONE OF THE FIRST THINGS HE ASKED WAS HOW ARE THINGS AT THE CHURCH. HE LOVED THE LORD, HE LOVED THE CHURCH, HE LOVED THIS CHURCH. HE WAS A FAITHFUL SERVANT OF THE LORD.

ONE OF THE MAIN REASONS FOR HIS LONG LIFE WAS HIS FAITH AND LOVE FOR HIS FAMILY AND THE CHURCH. HE WAS FIRST GENTLY ACQUAINTED WITH HIM. HIS FAITH, HIS LIFE AND MINISTRY WAS GROUNDED UPON THE HOLY SCRIPTURES, AND HIS LOVE OF THE LORD. FOR HIS DAILY MEDITATIONS, HE READ FIRST FROM A GREEK, THEN FROM THE LATIN, AND THEN AN ENGLISH BIBLE. HE LOVED TO TEACH BIBLE CLASSES, AND IT WAS FROM TIME TO TIME HERE UP UNTIL THE LAST FEW YEARS. OFTEN DURING OUR CONVERSATIONS HE WOULD DISCUSS SOME SCRIPTURE PASSAGE, HOW IT SHOULD BE INTERPRETED AND WHAT IT MEANS. HIS FAITH, HIS LOVE, HIS MINISTRY, WAS GROUNDED UPON THE TRUTH OF THE SCRIPTURE. THAT WAS HIS WITNESS TO ME AND FOR ALL THOSE THAT KNEW HIM. OVER THESE PAST 7½ YEARS I'VE ENJOYED HIS FRIENDSHIP, HIS GOOD NATURE, HIS KINDNESS, HIS CONCERN AND HIS SUPPORT. I WILL MISS HIM, SO WILL THIS CHURCH AND OF COURSE MOST OF ALL, HIS FAMILY. FOR WE ALL LOVED HIM AND APPRECIATED HIS FAITHFUL WORK AMONG US.

BUT HE IS HAPPY. HE LIVED A LONG LIFE; 95 YEARS. HE WAS READY TO GO TO HIS ETERNAL HOME TO BE WITH THE LORD. AS PAUL TOLD THE CORINTHIANS: "WE WANT OUR TRANSITORY LIFE TO BE ABSOLVED INTO THE LIFE THAT IS ETERNAL." THIS WAS IN RECENT YEARS HIS "PAINFUL LONGING." HIS PRAYER HAS BEEN ANSWERED. NOW HE IS WITH THE LORD IN HEAVEN, SINGING WITH HIS GUSTY VOICE, JOINING IN WITH ALL THE SAINTS ABOVE, GIVING GLORY TO GOD ON HIGH. AND WHEN HE WENT TO HIS PERMANENT HOME, I'M SURE THAT HE WAS GREETED BY HIS MASTER WHO SAID TO HIM, "WELL DONE, GOOD AND FAITHFUL SERVANT." LET US EVEN IN OUR SADNESS GIVE THANKS FOR HIS VICTORY. LET US GIVE THANKS FOR HIM, FOR HIS WITNESS TO US OF HIS FAITH GROUNDED IN THE SCRIPTURES, HIS LOVE FOR HIS FAMILY, FOR THE CHURCH, AND HIS SERVICE AMONG US. LET US GIVE THANKS TO OUR LORD AND SAVIOUR WHO LOVES US ALL, WHO IS WITH US TODAY GIVING US STRENGTH IN OUR HOUR OF NEED, WHO WANTS US ALL TO ONE DAY BE WITH HIM FOREVER IN HIS ETERNAL HOME. AMEN.



Byenchun, Chosen, Aug. 21, 1938.

Dear Katherine: - (Dad)

I am taking my turn writing today. It seems as though my turn doesn't come very often. Mother is such a faithful correspondent and I am afraid that at times I use this as an excuse for not writing myself although I assure you that writing to you is not a burden but a pleasure indeed.

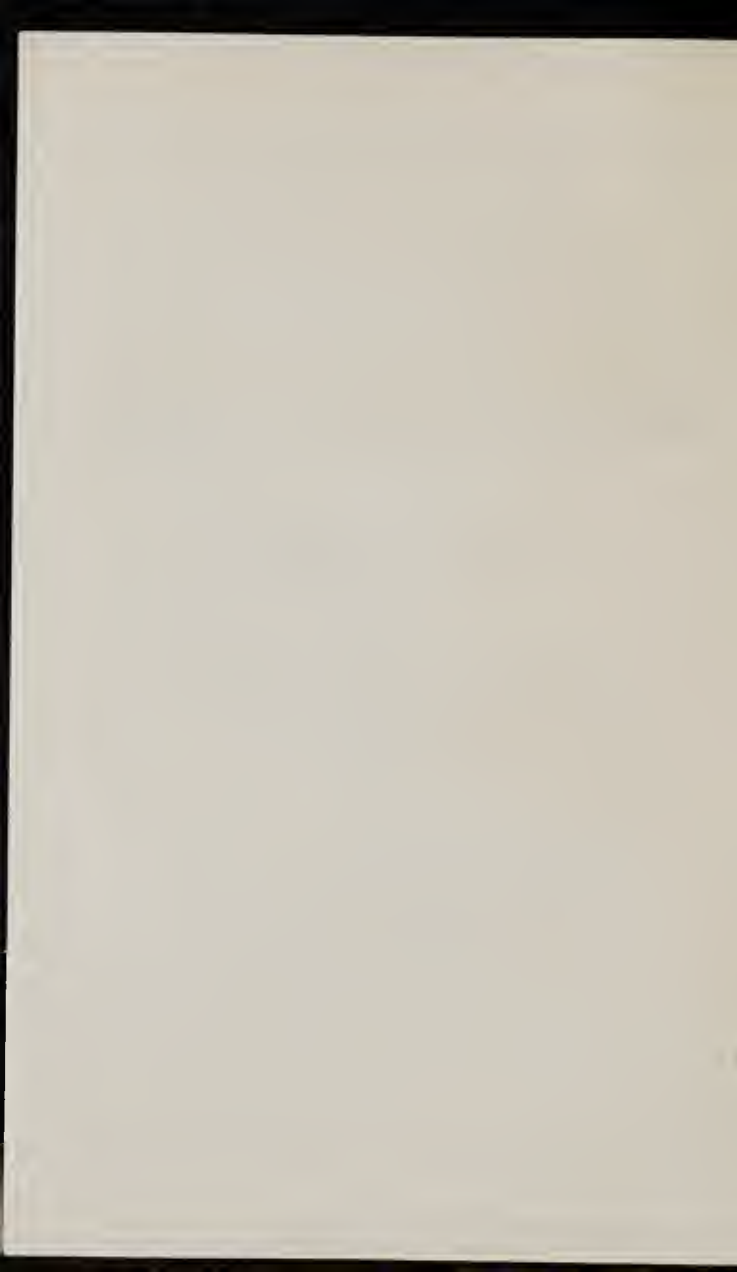
Mother has been a bit under the weather for several days now with stomach trouble and so is staying in bed today. In fact Bobby and Claire too are somewhat "on the bum", Bobby with a touch of cold and Claire with a sore tea.

We came home from Coral on Wednesday, the 17th. Everything looks fresh and luxuriant around here as we have had an abundance of rain for a week or so now. There have been some very heavy thunder storms for several days and it looks as if we might have some more today. Our yard is very pretty, presenting a variety of colors: canas, zennias, dahlias, cosmos, asters, cockscomb, sunflowers, verbenas and portulaca, all vying with each other to be the gayest. The rose and other bushes that we planted will require another year to grow before they will be really pretty. The water lilies in our fish pond also have grown prolifically so that more than half the pond is covered with their large leaves. There have been some very pretty blossoms, white, pink and red. This morning there is a large and beautiful red one poking its head out from the luxuriant growth of leaves. The man tells me that some baby fish were hatched in the pond this summer. I have not yet seen them as they are hard to see at first and with so many leaves covering the surface of the water it becomes more difficult still. Tim seems to have gotten along all right during our absence this summer but he surely was glad to see us. He and Claire are great chums and they have great times trying to catch frogs in the grass. When you see Tim hopping around in the grass and pressing his two front paws down you know that he is after a frog. He is also a great rat hunter and enjoys digging for them. There were some under our back porch where the man kept his corn for the chickens. One day Bobby and Tim got after them but the holes seemed to be too deep for Tim to be able to dig down to where they were so Bobby got a bucket of water and poured it in the hole but I guess both he and Tim were too much surprised to kill them when two half drowned rats came up and both escaped into the wood-pile.

Our presbytery and Summer Officers' class are on at present. The meetings are held at the Ryun Kwan, the second station north of S. C. I go back and forth each day by train. There are many in attendance and the church building is not large enough to accommodate all although the church is a fairly large brick structure. I noticed on the bulletin board of the church that last Sunday the attendance at S. C. was over 800 and more than 700 were present at the preaching service. You are of course hearing rumors about the very difficult question which is now confronting the Korean church. We have not been free from it during the present meetings. All the members of presbytery were required to go to the little shrine on the hill the first day and make their bow but it seems that not a sufficient number of them went and so the police corralled everybody the next day and had them repeat the performance. Practically all the Koreans have agreed to take the government at its word when it says that it has nothing to do with religion and are going out to the shrines when required. The question is a difficult one and there is a great difference of opinion among the missionaries concerning the question as to whether the Koreans ought to become martyrs at this time and also as to what the attitude of the missionaries ought to be toward the church which agrees to obey the orders of the government and go out at stated times and bow at these shrines. It seems to me that whatever one's own personal opinion may be about the meaning of the bow we are not in a position to tell the Koreans to go and put their necks on the block and have their heads cut off. In the second place, as to the question concerning our attitude toward the church which is conforming, I am convinced

**REPORT OF SYENCHUN STATION**  
**OF THE**  
**CHOSEN MISSION**  
**OF THE**  
**PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
**IN THE U.S.A.**

**1933—1934**



**PERSONNEL AND APPORTIONMENT  
OF WORK FOR  
SYENCHUN STATION  
1933—1934.**

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REV. CYRIL  
ROSS (1897)      Market preaching; teaching in  
Mens' and Womens' Bible In-  
stitutes; Bible classes; work in  
Pyungpook Presbytery.

MRS. CYRIL  
ROSS, M.D.  
(1897)      Visiting in Korean homes;  
teaching in Womens' Bible  
Institutes; Bible classes; permis-  
sion to serve as supt. of East  
Church Womens' Sunday School.

REV. H. W.  
LAMPE, D.D.      On furlough.  
(1908)



- MRS. H. W.  
LAMPE (1910)      On furlough.
- REV. C. S.  
HOFFMAN,  
M.A. (1910)      Teaching in Sinsung Academy;  
teaching in Mens' and Womens'  
Bible Institutes; work in Pyung-  
pook Presbytery.
- MRS. C. S.  
HOFFMAN (1911)      Teacher of foreign children;  
charge of Posung Academy  
self-help department; permission  
to teach in Central Church Sunday School for  
women.
- MISS BLANCHE  
I. STEVENS  
M.A. (1911)      Principal and Treasurer of  
Posung Academy; teaching in  
Posung Academy.
- MR. E. L.  
CAMPBELL  
(1914)      Work in connection with agri-  
cultural program for Korea;  
treasurer of Station institutions;  
teaching in Bible Institutes;  
evangelistic work in unchurched communities.

- MRS. E. L. CAMPBELL,  
R.N. (1913) Teaching in Womens' Bible Institute; Bible classes; oversight of Bible woman; evangelistic work in unchurched communities.
- MISS VERA F. INGERSON  
R.N. (1916) Teaching Bible and Public Health in Posung Academy; self-help department of Posung Academy; permission to serve as supt. of the Womens' Sunday School at Central Church.
- MISS MARJORIE HANSON  
(1918) Principal of Womens' Bible Institute; supervision of Station Bible women; Bible classes.
- W. H. CHISHOLM, M.D.  
F.A.C.S.  
(1923) Superintendent of "In His Name" Hospital; charge of hospital evangelism.
- MRS. W. H. CHISHOLM  
(1923) Teacher of foreign children; permission to serve as supt. of South Church Womens' Sunday School.



REV. A. D.	(Members of Shinpin Station but
CLARK (1933)	resident in Syenchun) Language
MRS. A. D.	Study and other work under the
CLARK (1933)	direction of the Station.

This is the Jubilee Year for the Chosen Mission and the 33rd year of the work of God's grace in this place. The Station territory has a population of about 800,000 to whom we are responsible under God for spreading the knowledge of the glorious gospel of Jesus Christ. There are 78 Korean pastors looking after 263 churches and groups which are governed and guided by 523 church officers and other workers. Our Christian constituency of 62,624 with 21,383 baptized and 8,916 catechumens is the largest in our Mission or under our Board. During the year 2,144 have been baptized and 3,329 made catechumen and the total contributions were ¥246,646. There are three Bible Institutes in the territory: one each for men and women in Syenchun and one for men and women in Wiju in Wisan Presbytery. The total attendance at Bible Institute for the year was 248. Bible classes for the year number 258 with an enrollment of 30,914, which is nearly half the entire constituency.

There is a national staff of 16 at the "In His Name" Hospital who work under the American doctor. They have cared for 1,069 in-patients; treated 7,299 new patients in the Dispensary with a total of 12,609 new and returning sick folk. There have been 338 major operations performed not including such things as spinal punctures.

As agencies for educating the youth of our territory we have 25 kindergartens with 1380 pupils enrolled; 4204 pupils are taught in 40 primary schools by 106 teachers and there is one Middle or High school each for boys and girls with respective enrollments of 347 and 161.

The hospital reports with joy that they were able to minister to the souls and bodies of more sick folk than for many years. Not that they rejoice in illness but the sick are like the poor—always with us—and it is a privilege to be able to alleviate their suffering. The diathermy machine has proved a great blessing especially in treatment of cancer. Blood transfusion has been more successfully used than ever before. A number of operations for intestinal obstruction have been performed with good results and hernias, radical operation for cancer of the breast, mastoid

involve nent and many other conditions together with the 45 abdominal operations make up the total of 338 for the year.

Some of the interesting cases are well worth relating. One lad came in with what seemed to be a mastoid involvement. The operation did not account for the symptoms so a large blood viaduct was uncovered behind the mastoid process which revealed a well of pus. It was necessary to ligate the jugular vein in order that the infection should not spread and the lad was in extreme condition. But he did recover and not only he and his family turned to the Lord but in that district of Confucianism six heathen homes burned their spirit worship fetishes and accepted Christ as Savior.

NEEDED:	In the night school for new
FRACTURED	believers one woman suffered
SKULL TO TURN	severe persecution from her
A HEART TO	husband. He later had work on
CHRIST	the Central Church building and
	one day made a mis-step and
	fell from the roof. He was picked up with a
	fractured skull and taken to our hospital where he

was treated free. He and the whole family are now Christians.

DEMON                      A young woman came to the  
POSSESSION               hospital who had been oppressed  
                                 by strange fears for three months.

She had a hard, sulky expression and was dumb and apparantly deaf too. Her condition seemed hopeless and there was nothing that could be done for her in the hospital. The Bible women felt that she was possessed by a demon so she was taken to a private home and some of the missionary and Korean women met and prayed for her. Following the prayer meeting she began to speak and the next day she was up and able very soon to go to the foreign doctor's house to learn to read. Her expression changed to one of great joy and radiance and she shortly returned home completely delivered.

NOT SATISFIED            At a town about 50 miles from  
WITH THREE               Syenchun a school house was  
SERMONS AT               packed with eager listeners one  
ONE SITTING !            evening. Two Korean evangelists  
                                 and the foreign doctor each gave



messages and not short ones. They then wished to go on to visit a church which had been built as a result of preaching by the hospital people but the crowd begged for more so one of the Korean men gave another long message. Very likely a church will be built there ere long.

PREACHING AND HEALING. On the country trips a kit of medicine and some instruments are always taken along and healing and preaching are scripturally combined. During the year fifteen new districts have been visited besides keeping in touch with former groups. The hospital mechanic usually goes on these trips and can with equal ease and efficiency produce and place a broken auto spring and act as surgical assistant and chief tooth extractor !

KOREAN HERB DOCTOR RECEIVES HOSPITAL TREATMENT. An unusual patient in the person of a Korean herb doctor was in the hospital for a long period. He had been a professing Christian but had backslidden and fallen into sin. Hearing the Gospel constantly brought to his remembrance the things of God and he

decided to turn about face and give the remaining years of life to service for his Master. He returned home and was instrumental in opening up a new work in a mining town. A fine building was erected and it is the only place where the local children can attend Sunday School. It is said that the doctor now prays with his patients.

DUHMING FOR      At one of the churches started  
MAD DOG BITE      through the hospital work a  
"mother in Israel" was bitten  
by a mad dog. For treatment she had been  
"duhmed" which is done by placing a piece of  
moss about as large as a fifty cent piece over the  
area to be treated and setting fire to it. For her  
trouble the back is the accepted place. However  
the foreign doctor was constrained to supplement  
with the Pasteur treatment for rabies. The  
woman was the sole dependance of several little  
children so the hospital had to stand the bill which  
made a drain on the much overworked charity  
fund.

ISOLATION      A large infectious disease practice  
BUILDING      makes desperate the need for  
                 more adequate isolation space.

Often three diphtheria patients and those who care for them are crowded into one small room. Of 49 contagious cases 23 were diphtheria, 14 meningitis and 8 scarlet fever.

Syenchun was the first Station after Seoul to get the vision for kindergartens. The Young Women's Association, composed largely of former Posung graduates, made the start and then the country churches caught the spirit and now there are 25 through the territory. They are all supported and managed by the Korean church and from the beginning the Primary schools have been entirely under the Church. In the early years of the Station Academies were started for both boys and girls. The Sinsung Academy for boys has gone steadily forward and now has a fine plant including a new auditorium-gymnasium which was largely built from Korean subscriptions. The school has Government "designation" which means that graduates are qualified to enter any school in the Empire on an equal basis with

students from Government schools. It has been a great help in the numerical strength of the school as the enrollment had fallen off alarmingly and the school could not run with so few students. But almost inevitably with the securing of "designation" and increased support and control by the Korean Church and local community, a change in emphasis is noticed and instead of the pure aim of training church leaders which formerly prevailed, the tendency seems to be toward the secular rather than strongly Christian.

Last March 32 boys received their diplomas and went forth into various lines of preparation for their life's work. Only seven are reported as being at home and the rest are in business, teaching, attending Medical and Dental colleges, Union Christian College, Chosen Christian College, Law School, School of Music et cetera. The attendance at church and Sunday School during the year was 90%. About 10 boys taught in the local Sunday School and some 50 helped with Daily Vacation Bible Schools. An outstanding cause for joy was the very high record made by our students at the time of the entrance examinations for Severance Medical College. Five out of



seven boys passed the scholastic test while from some schools as many as 20 or 30 took the test and only one or two passed.

The Faculty is, on the whole, a strong Christian group and they take an interest in the lives of the students. There is a very good athletic coach who had his training in U.S.A. and he is also dormitory master. The foot-ball team won a championship in competition with eleven teams. Two boys won prizes at the annual wrestling match in Syenchun. Another boy won second prize in a nation wide contest for Temperance posters and turned the money, ¥5, in to the school toward the Endowment campaign as he had not been able to contribute earlier.

The honor student last year is promising. He graduated from Primary school and got a job as errand boy in the local Police Station. This he kept for several years and then came to enter Academy on the money he had saved. His standing was the highest in the whole school and he was given a scholarship. He is an earnest Christian and hopes to go into the ministry.

Last spring, in 1933, there were three boys who failed to qualify for the entrance examinations.

Nothing daunted they got a room and set to work. They worked part time and studied part time and continued all through the summer. By fall they took the examinations again and this time were accepted. They are very earnest and went out at Christmas time to preach in the country. Surely they have the right spirit and will become workers for the Lord.

In May a fine wrought iron gate at the entrance to the Sinsung campus was dedicated in honor of Mr. Whittmore. It was given by the Alumni Association as a mark of gratitude for all his efforts on behalf of the school. Dr. and Mrs. Lapsley McAfee of Berkeley California were present as well as many friends of the school from here and other places. The service was immediately followed by the dedication of the new auditorium-gymnasium which seats 2,000 and will be such a blessing to the school and the whole community.

It would be an anachronism to say that Posung Academy is facing a crisis for the school has been in that state for how many years! Ever since the Academy was closed for religious reasons in 1916 it has had many ups and downs and mostly

downs! However, no matter how many the "downs," the school, like its Principal, always bobs up serenely and takes another step forward. In 1922 the school was taken from the table where it had lain in the form of a "Widows' School" for six years and was partly restored to its former status by the granting by the Government of a permit for a two years high school. In 1928 a classroom building was erected and has been a great blessing. Every year some improvements have been made and last year with a suddenly increased enrollment the building of a new dormitory became imperative. An unused missionary residence had been given to the school for when they were ready to use the materials. The students bought shares and the parents were visited during Christmas vacation by Principal and Faculty and more money was raised. For the first time in the history of the school there are adequate bathing facilities made possible by a special gift, and the bath-room is in this new dormitory.

Last year the enrollment jumped from 100 to 152 and this Spring the 200 mark was almost reached—194. This is absolutely the only school which offers even two years of secondary education

to girls in, not only our Station territory, but the whole province with a population of one and one half million and including Methodist territory. Posung Academy was the first to seek cóoperation with the Korean Church even before it became a Mission policy and it seems ironic indeed that our school which has been a pioneer in seeking and establishing Korean support and cóoperation should be put at the very bottom of the list of schools to receive Mission support. The sum we get is small in comparison with that received by other schools but it is very much needed in order to carry on. The Korean church has responded nobly to the call but it is difficult for it to take on too much all at once.

There are many interesting stories in such a large group of girls. One girl was sold when quite an infant to a school where they train dancing girls. She did not realize what it was all about until she graduated and at fourteen years they began to send her out to entertain. Then her spirit rebelled and she was able to get word to her older sister who disguised herself and went into the place at night and rescued her. She seemed to have a real spiritual re-birth and after lengthy



negotiations, she was freed from the life of bondage. It was not wise to leave her in the former vicinity so she came to Syenchun and was bright enough to skip one year of Primary school and enter our school and she is now safely and happily established in the dormitory.

Increased demands of the Government, decreased financial support from the Mission, clamor of the church for Christian schools and a great need for in some way counteracting the anti-Christian influence which the children meet in Government Primary schools all combine to create a tremendous problem. The youth are the hope of both the church and the country and upon us rests the responsibility for offering them a right foundation which is Jesus Christ.

The evangelistic efforts put forth in the Station have always been signally blessed of God. A mighty church has been built up in the town and in the surrounding country but, "there is still much land to be possessed." There are four local churches with a total average church attendance of 2,950 and the total average Sunday School attendance is 3,650. Many and varied are the

activities of each one and there are frequent union meetings. Besides the regular services for worship and Bible study there are missionary societies for men and women; Temperance meetings; societies for looking up and aiding the poor in the churches; Christian Endeavor meetings and so on. Churches are scattered all thru the country but there are constantly being found new villages and valleys containing not a Christian. The missionary with his auto is the one to make these discoveries and then the Korean evangelists are led to carry on. The pioneering spirit of our ancestors is needed to furnish inspiration and initiative in opening up the new work and giving it a start.

The enrollment for the Women's Bible Institute has steadily increased year by year and this year it was 110. The students are on the whole much younger than formerly and the call in the churches is for the younger women to serve as Bible women. In addition to the regular hours of study there are practical personal work periods when the students visit in non-Christian homes in the town. Some go to near-by country places and spend the week-end preaching. Interesting indeed are the weekly reports of their experiences which

include such things as seeing idols burned, demons cast out by the prayer of faith and many souls giving themselves to the Lord. Because of special circumstances a spring term was held for the second time. The reports of the activities of 40 students seem to justify the decision. They go to the country over week-ends and report 2000 souls having heard the Gospel and 500 decisions to believe.

One of the outstanding events of the Bible Institute life is the establishment of a church in an extremely wicked village about five miles from Syenchun. The Bible Institute Missionary Society decided to concentrate in one needy place and this one was chosen. The women went out in groups and met with a great deal of severe persecution. But they persisted and gradually the wall of opposition was broken down and now a regular church is established and meeting in its own building. A missionary pastor recently held examinations and 35 out of 37 candidates were admitted to the catechumenate.

The Men's Bible Institute had three terms this year, covering a period of four months. At the first term for one class twelve men studied. At the regular winter term the two presbyteries sent

six pastors for three weeks each to help with the teaching. The enrollment of 91 was well sustained throughout and eight men were graduated at the end. Following that 25 men studied for a further period of five weeks.

The Presbytery Class for men always starts on Korean New Year which fell this year on February 14th. Pastor Lee from Songdo was the guest speaker. His messages were very helpful indeed and the attendance was good. On one night a joint sacred concert was given by the two academies with Mrs. Lutz of Pyengyang and Mr. and Mrs. Allen Clark as star performers. In former years there have been as many as 1800 men at the Presbytery class and 1200 women at the Spring class but since the division of the territory into three Presbyteries, the numbers have been much smaller because of more local classes. The women have also been allowed to study with the men in the winter class which makes their numbers smaller. However 493 women representing 60 churches of our Presbytery studied for a week in April and seemed to receive a real blessing.

In September a Workers' Class was held and on the basis of the teaching and inspiration received at



that time, the Bible women held 20 country classes including two large county classes. They were well attended and not only many conversions reported but the deepening of the spiritual life of Christian women which surely gladdens the heart of God and makes them much more effective and zealous workers in His Vineyard. In some places the eagerness and spiritual hunger of those studying was very marked and the missionary teacher and Bible woman were often kept answering questions for an hour after the regular study period was over. In one place the pastor failed to give the invitation after an evening meeting and even so several women came forward and said that they wished to accept Jesus Christ as their Savior. "Blessed are they who hunger and thirst after righteousness for they shall be filled"

CHURCH  
OFFICERS  
FIRST!

Much to the amazement of the candidates for baptism in a small country church the missionary pastor first called in the church officers and inquired as to the spiritual conditions in their homes and whether or not they were

having family prayers. Water rises no higher than its level.

CAST THY  
BREAD UPON  
THE WATERS!      An elderly man of about 80 years was met during market preaching and asked if he were a Christian. He pulled a tract from his pocket and said that he had received one like it the year before and had taken it home and pasted it upon the wall of his living room. The words "shall not perish but have everlasting life" provoked a thoughtful heart searching and he decided that he desired that everlasting life so he and now the whole family of sons are faithfully attending church and living Christian lives.

MR. MISSION-  
ARY, PLEASE  
COME IN!      The foregoing invitation was extended by a young man as the missionary was passing along the street of a village where he had gone to preach at the market. He accepted and answered many questions on the Way of Life put to him by an apparently sincere group of young men.

PERSECUTOR  
TURNS  
PREACHER!

A man, formerly very wicked and dissipated, was active in the persecution in the village near Syenchun where work was started by the Bible Institute students. He became converted, attended Men's Bible Institute for two terms and returned to his home town to preach Christ. His old position of road supervisor at ¥60 per month was offered him but he refused it and accepted ¥20 to teach in a small church school.

A LITTLE  
CHILD SHALL  
LEAD THEM!

In that same village a prayer group has been formed of children from 10 to 14 years who meet daily to pray for their unsaved parents. Hard indeed would be the heart of a parent who could resist the pleading with tears for the salvation of unbelieving fathers and mothers. In another town south of Syenchun there is the same zeal and a daily prayer meeting held by children for their unsaved families. Who can say what weight such petitions will have with our Heavenly Father.

SMASHED  
WATER JARS  
NEW MEANS  
OF GRACE!

A leading man in his village accepted Christ and opened his home to his fellow believers for worship. An uncle who had refused the Gospel message decided to express his disapproval in some tangible form. To fortify himself he partook freely of Korean liquor and, club in hand, went down to his nephew's house. The younger man wisely fled and the old man proceeded to smash things up in general and, incidentally, to beat his nephew's wife. The Evangelist meanwhile arrived from a near-by town and found the family very much upset. A younger brother, a very recent believer, was keen to go up and have it out with his uncle. The Evangelist tried to persuade him that persecution for ones' faith was to be expected but he was unconvinced. Before dawn the next day, which was Sunday, he went to his uncle's house to wreak vengeance according to his own ideas. He must have startled the family considerably for he broke an iron kettle and smashed to bits eleven earthenware jars—damage amounting to about ¥50. As soon as he heard the news the older brother went to offer apologies to the uncle and, although he

had formerly received rough treatment from the old man, the Evangelist was bent on going along. But their words fell on deaf ears for the uncle insisted that he had been entirely in the wrong and richly deserved all he got. A non-Christian neighbor brought six jars to replace the broken ones but the old man refused to receive more.

Christ taught in the Sermon on the Mount to turn the other cheek. However sometimes a general smash-up clears the atmosphere and brings results which are to the glory of God's name. The Spirit works in various ways to transform men's lives and upon us rests the responsibility of being very sensitive to His slightest whisper in order that we may know and obey His leading.

Not so many guests come from the outside world as in former years but we have been blessed by several visits during the year among whom were, Mrs. Leroy Weld, Synodical President from Iowa; Miss Lucie Owen of London, traveling in the interests of the British and Foreign Bible Society; Miss Marianne Mills of Geneva, International Secretary of the Y.W.C.A. and Dr. and Mrs. Lapsley McAfee of Berkeley California. There is

another guest who deserves special mention. It is a peculiar privilege to have a mother visit one on the Mission field. It is an unusual mother who is blessed in having two sons and a daughter in one Mission. Mrs. J. Addison Campbell who is well known in Presbyterian church circles at home, came out to visit her three children. She had expected to make her long visit in the home of her eldest son, Edwin L. Campbell of our Station.

Due to the financial difficulties at home our Mission was asked to sacrifice workers. After much prayer and thorough reviewing of the situation the Board decided that Mr. and Mrs. Campbell should be withdrawn and asked to take up their life at home. After 20 years of loyal service in a Station, it is a very sad and difficult thing to pull up the roots which have gone deep into the hearts of fellow Station members and the Korean friends. They will be missed on every hand and particularly at the daily prayer hour where their presence has always been so helpful and their faith so manifest. Surely God's ways are inscrutable. Although not according to our request, we firmly believe that "God meant it unto good" and that He has some other work for them to do in



the home-land. We commit them to our loving Father praying that He will open up their new path of service so that there may remain not the least doubt in their minds as to what God would have them do for him.

An ancient proverb says:— "If you plan for a year plant grain; if you plan for a century, plant trees; if you plan for eternity, deal with souls." The missionary's primary work has to do with immortal souls. He is building for eternity. The multifarious kinds of work which fall to the lot of a busy missionary must be kept in the back ground if this high aim is to be accomplished. At least once a year it is well to take stock and search our hearts to see if we are really putting and keeping first things first. At the close of the year as we look back we are conscious of many failures but there is much indeed for which to give thanks to our Father in Heaven: for health and strength for each day's duties; for wisdom in times of perplexity; for courage in times of discouragement; for joy in service; for answered prayer; for forgiveness in times of failure; for the privilege of seeing souls led to Christ and growing in grace and, best of all, for the assurance of victory in Christ and the sense of God's abiding presence day by day.



Syenchun, Chosen, Nov. 5, 1938.

Dearest Katherine,-

Here we are again approaching the Christmas season and in order to get our greetings off in time must begin to write our letters at once even though it is only the first part of Nov. Hope you will pardon this general letter. It is not a whit less personal than it would be if we typed a separate letter to each one of you individually.

Life has moved along during the past year much as usual notwithstanding the fact that the Far East is passing through a state of transition and that we are living in very abnormal times. We have felt very little of the effects here. To be true prices are higher and the question of purchasing things abroad is giving us concern due to the rigid control of foreign exchange. It is going to be increasingly difficult to procure things which are absolute necessities to us and which must be purchased abroad. Our hospitals especially will be in very dire straits because of the great difficulty in getting their drug supplies.

As for our family, you know that there are only four of us out here while the other four are in the homeland. Two of those at home graduated from college last June which we think is quite a record, Stanley graduating from the University of Pennsylvania Medical School and Katherine completing her course at Wilson. Stanley is now an interne in the Ford Hospital, Detroit, and Katherine has entered Drexel Institute for a two year's course in Home Economics. Betty is now in her last year of nurses training at the Presbyterian Hospital, Philadelphia, and John is still in a Vocational School, Glen Moore, Pa. Bobby and Claire, our two "postscripts", are with us here and what would we do without them? Their mother is occupied every day having school with them. In another year or so she will complete her twentieth year teaching her own children. Few can equal this record. As for me, I have just completed twenty-eight years of service in Korea under our Foreign Board and twenty-seven years of matrimonial life, having arrived in my station Nov. 3, 1910, and being married the following year, Nov. 4, 1911, in Yokohama. All this sounds like a very long time but in reality it seems but as yesterday and as I look back I am not willing to say as Jacob did to Pharaoh: "Few and evil have the days of the years of my pilgrimage been," for the Lord has been very gracious to us and abundantly blessed us during these years.

I have just come in from a trip to the country where I visited four of my churches and so am able to give you some of the latest news about our work. Had a fine trip; weather was just about perfect with balmy days which are so typical of Korea in the fall and which can hardly be equalled anywhere else in the world. Some missionaries report having met with some difficulties with the officials while in the country in



connection with the shrine question but we have had practically no trouble in our field and on this recent trip there was not the slightest indication of it. One's heart is warmed every time he goes to the country where he can see the power of the Gospel in the rank and file of the common people. This last trip was no exception in this way. At the Mai Bong church lives deacon Su. This last summer they put up a new church building, all at their own expense. As I approached the place I caught a glimpse of the little white building standing up on the hill in the place where the dingy and unattractive old one had stood. But this is not all. These people are very poor and when I heard of the sacrifices that were made in order that they might have this new place in which to worship I was put to shame. Now comes the part about deacon Su. It was he who was in charge of the building program and a fine leader he was. He is just an ordinary farmer with no special ability but by his own example he spurred the others on. The most necessary thing, of course, was money and I learned that he himself sold two heifers that he owned, one for thirty, and the other for twenty, yen, all of which he put into the church building fund. I took supper Sunday evening in his little home and in the course of the conversation he said that even though he had given that much to the church he had gotten along better this year financially than ever before and that he was able to buy several fields.

At another place the church has had a spiritual revival recently. In August they had a week of Bible study and prayer under the direction of a visiting pastor and the result has been a remarkable increase in earnestness among the members in their prayer life and the work of the church. My heart was stirred at this time to find scores going to church every morning before daylight for prayer. Backsliders are again attending and the entire spiritual tone of the church is on a much higher plane than it has been for years. Bible study and prayer are the secret.

This concludes the "lesser half's" part of this letter. The "better half" will put on the finishing paragraph.

Mother speaking now! I want to say how very much we have appreciated the letters we have received during the year. They mean so much to us here in our rather lonely lives. We are a very small company in this Station now, although Dr. Chisholm and his family returned to us from America just about a month ago. This gives us two more children just about the ages of our two, and they have wonderful times together. They have to make their own good times, and amuse themselves; and we mothers have to be their every-day-school teachers, and everything. But it will be only for a few short years and then they too will be gone away to school.

Our weather this fall is staying warm unusually late, and so we have been able to enjoy our gorgeous flower-garden until quite recently. All that is left now are a few "mums" out in a sunny corner. We have seen no signs of our winter's supply of coal yet: it has been ordered

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for weeks, but it has to be shipped in from points south, and there is a shortage of freight cars. We have been busy getting in our winter vegetables, - endive and lettuce, and cabbage. We made a keg of sauerkraut to go with the little pig we are fattening out in the pen!

We hear from our four children in America almost every week. They seem to be getting along all right, but my, I don't know how I am going to wait nearly five years yet to see them. I am hoping that some of them, at least, will be getting out this way before that time.

As this is intended as a Christmas letter, it carries with it, of course, our very warmest greetings and wishes to you for a happy Christmas and a blessed New Year.

We remain,

Very cordially yours,

Clarence and Katherine Hoffman.



THE BOARD OF FOREIGN MISSIONS  
OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN THE  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

156 FIFTH AVENUE  
NEW YORK 10, N. Y.

Mrs. Clarence Sidney Hoffman  
Memorial Minute  
Adopted by the Presbyterian Board of Foreign Missions  
September 21, 1948

The Board made record of the death on August 6, 1948, at Wilmington, Delaware, of Mrs. Clarence Sidney Hoffman, a missionary of the Board to Korea, who was in the United States because of ill health and was working with her husband, Stated Supply of the Elsmere Presbyterian Church in Wilmington.

Katherine Emma Davies was born on April 7, 1890, at Doylestown, Pennsylvania. Her home was a Christian one and her church was Presbyterian. When eleven years old, she united with the church in her home town and, as she grew older, she participated in the work of the church, both in the Sunday School and in the Christian Endeavor Society. She was graduated from Doylestown High School and in 1908 from West Chester State Normal School, where she was active in Y.W.C.A. work. Her graduation was followed by a year as assistant to the biology professor in the Normal School and then by two years in public school teaching. She became engaged to the Rev. Clarence S. Hoffman, who was appointed to Korea by the Board in 1910 and preceded her to the field. After her appointment in 1911, she sailed for Korea in October and was met by Mr. Hoffman at Yokohama, Japan, where they were married on November 4, 1911.

After a period of language study in Pyengyang, she and her husband were assigned to the northern station of Kangkei where they lived for twelve years and were then transferred to Syenchun. Mrs. Hoffman worked faithfully with her husband in these stations, at the same time caring for the six children who were born into the home. In most cases she taught them at home until they could go away to boarding school. Her principal task, of course, was the care of the home, but that home was often a place for Bible classes and she herself was active in teaching Woman's Bible classes in the church and at Bible Institutes. At one time she taught arithmetic in a girls' school and at another time was very helpful in teaching Bible geography. The letters which she wrote home quoted on several occasions a poem which she had learned as a child and which perhaps can stand as her motto in life:

"Forenoon, afternoon and night;  
Forenoon, afternoon and night,  
Forenoon, afternoon - and - what?  
The empty song repeats itself.  
And is this all? Yea, this is life.  
Make this forenoon sublime,  
This afternoon a psalm, this night a prayer,  
And time is conquered, and thy crown is won."

The late fall of 1940, when the international situation compelled the evacuation of women and children, she and the children who were still in Korea were put on board the "Mariposa" and came back to the United States. Mr. Hoffman remained in Korea until just before the war, caring for the work that it was still possible to do. Upon his return they were soon established in the Elsmere Church at Wilmington, Delaware, and although in these last years Mrs. Hoffman's health has been failing, yet she continued to play an active part in her home and in the life of the church.

All of the six children are living. Dr. Stanley Livingston Hoffman is a medical missionary under the Board in China. Miss Elizabeth Virginia was a nurse in India until her marriage in 1942 to Major G. G. Browning of the British Army. Miss Katherine Louise Hoffman is a missionary under the Board at Beirut, Lebanon. John David, Robert Edwin, and Claire Sidney are with the family in Wilmington. The loyalty of these children to the Mission Cause speaks well for the mother.

The Board extends to Mr. Hoffman and to the children its most sincere sympathy and prays that the treasured memories of their life at home may uphold them in this time of sorrow.